

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-17 and 19 are pending in this application. Claims 1-6, 18, and 20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 7 and 19 have been amended to add the subject matter of Claim 18 thereto. As Claim 18 depended from Claim 7 and claim 19 includes the subject matter of Claim 7, it is clear that no new matter has been added by this amendment. In addition, Claims 7-16 and 19 have been amended to improve clarity and to better agree with accepted U.S. claim practice, also without the introduction of any new matter.

The outstanding Office Action presents an objection to the drawings and a rejection of Claims 7-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Taguchi (U.S. Patent No. 5,097,473).

In reviewing the specification and drawings to prepare the present response, an error was noted at line 22 of Page 33 as to the incorrect reference to "FIG. 1" that should be --FIG. 7--. This error is corrected as set forth above.

With regard to the drawing objections, FIG. 7 has been replaced with a new FIG. 7 incorporating the changes presented in our drawing correction letter filed with this application on January 8, 2002, as well as adding a showing of the high frequency signal generating circuit 17 and the high frequency signal superposing circuit 20 in response to the objection to original Claim 18 subject matter not being specifically illustrated. As this modification to FIG. 7 is based upon original claim disclosure, there is clearly no new matter issue as to this modification to FIG. 7 to show original Claim 18 subject matter.

With further regard to the objection to Claim 19, the originally proposed change to FIG. 7 included a correction to the signs next to the terminals of the operational amplifier as well as a correction of the reference symbol for that amplifier. In addition, Claim 19 is

supported by the showing of FIG. 11. In this regard, page 44, lines 9-14, of the specification note that in the recording/reproducing apparatus “show in FIG. 11, it is possible to use, in place of the semiconductor laser control circuit 101 shown in FIG. 9, a semiconductor laser control circuit ... such as shown by FIG. 4, 7 or 10.” Accordingly, in further support of Claim 19, FIG 11 has been amended to now indicate the reference numeral “40” that represents the FIG. 7 semiconductor laser control circuit as an alternative to 101.

Claim 20 has been canceled which is believed to render the objection to the drawings based upon this claim not being shown therein as being moot.

The new sheets of drawing being submitted further include the proposed changes to FIG. 9 of the above-noted previously filed drawing correction letter as to the resistor R<sub>i</sub> connected to the + terminal of 105 being connected to the output of 102, not the line from 103 to 115.

Turning to the rejection of Claims 7-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Taguchi, the cancellation of Claim 20 renders this rejection thereof as being moot.

With further regard to independent Claims 7 and 19, it is noted that they have both been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled Claim 18. This Claim 18 subject matter includes:

“a high-frequency signal generating circuit configured to generate a high-frequency signal having a predetermined frequency,” and

“a high-frequency signal superimposing circuit configured to superimpose the high-frequency signal from the high-frequency generating circuit onto an output signal of the amplifying circuit.”

As Taguchi does not teach or suggest at least these circuits required by independent Claims 7 and 17 between circuits 14 and 16 in FIG. 15, or any where else, the rejection based upon anticipation over Taguchi is respectfully traversed.

As Claims 8-17 all ultimately depend on independent Claim 7 and include all of its subject matter, the rejection of dependent Claims 8-17 based upon anticipation over Taguchi

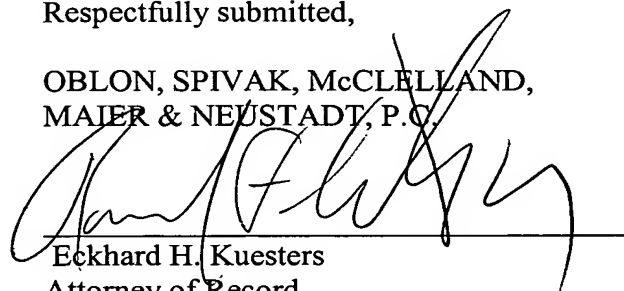
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is also respectfully traversed. In addition, each of these dependent claims adds other features to those of base Claim 17 that are not taught or suggested by Taguchi and this rejection is respectfully traversed for this reason as well.

In view of the foregoing and as no issues remain outstanding in the present application, it is believed that this application is clearly in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eckhard H. Kuesters', is written over a horizontal line.

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